

Dave & Bonnie Lambert

JANUARY 2026

SERVING WITH CADENCE INTERNATIONAL

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Dear Partners,

We were standing shoulder to shoulder doing dishes, me washing, while he was drying and stacking. Sam (not his real name) had joined us for the first time for our Friday night dinner and Bible study. He was young, having just arrived at Camp Schwab, and had heard that he could get a good home-cooked meal if he joined us. We had finished eating, and when I asked for volunteers to help do the dishes, he joined me in the kitchen. He started the conversation with, "That was really good, eating dinner together, talking around the table. I have never done that." "I'm glad you joined us," I replied. "What about our time was new to you?" "Oh, sitting around the table like that. I have never done that before." "Wait, you have never sat around a table like that to eat? What was it like growing up? Did you eat out, or did your parents just order food in, or what?" "We did not eat out much; mom would sometimes order food in, or else she would cook. When dinner was ready, she would just tell us that the food was on the stove, and we could grab what we wanted and take it to our room to eat." I was blown away. How does someone grow up never sitting around a table to eat, talking about their day, and engaging with those they love? It is, after all, one of the things we love the most: gathering people around us for a home-cooked meal and having great conversations around the table. The dinner table is where we really get to know one another, where we pause from the busyness of the day to share, be heard, and hear about others. It is one of the core values of Cadence. We invite others into our home to share meals and study God's Word together.

It is also what I miss most from our past role in Cadence. While we love our team that we are privileged to lead, we miss the weekly interaction with young Marines that we had while at Camp Schwab. Bonnie was known for her fantastic meals, her Sunday morning cinnamon rolls, and for giving out great hugs to young Marines who were far from home. I was once told by a chaplain, "Dave, we like you, but we LOVE Bonnie." I often said that they came for her cooking but had to stay for my Bible studies. And it all began around the dinner table . . .



That is why we are so excited to let you know that we are going back to Okinawa! We are not moving back that way, but we will be leading the ministry at Camp Hansen Marine Base for the spring. Every Friday night, upwards of 65 Marines make their way through the doors of the Cadence house to eat a home-cooked meal, study God's Word, and of course, have conversations around the table. The couple running the ministry is taking a much-needed time in the States, and we will be holding down the ministry from March through May. I am so excited to be in a room with these young Marines, to engage with them, open God's Word with them and yes, even do the dishes at the end of the night while standing shoulder to shoulder with another young man who is far from home and is experiencing the hospitality we can provide.

Would you be willing to partner with us as we serve our Marines? First off, we need prayers as we jump back into this kind of weekly ministry. It takes extra energy to shop and cook for that many hungry young men and women. Trying to remember names, asking good questions, and listening well also takes extra stamina. We could also use your help financially. Feeding 65 hungry Marines is not cheap and we do not want to run out of food! If you would be willing to give an extra gift during this time, we would be greatly appreciative. If you happen to be in Okinawa this spring, stop by, we always have room at the table for one more!

Love, Dave and Bonnie



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PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT
Dave & Bonnie Lambert

To join our monthly support team or make a one-time donation, please give online at Cadence.org/Lambert.D or contact Cadence Donor Services. Thank you!

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